Washington Sentinel.

BY BEVERLEY TUCKER.

EDITED BY WM. M. OVERTON AND CH. MAURICE SMITH.

CITY OF WASHINGTON.

street, Alexandria, is our authorized agent to re-ceive advertisements and subscriptions. Single numbers can be procured at his counter every

DECEMBER 13, 1853.

MR. E. K. LUNDY, bookseller, Bridge street Georgetown, will act as agent for the Sentine receiving subscriptions and advertisements.

2.6 George W. Mearson is our authorized agent to receive subscriptions and advertisements in Washington, Georgetown and Alexandria.

We must again apologize for the dearth of editorial matter in our columns this morning. We plead the same excuse that we have given for the last few days-public documents.

CONGRESS YESTERDAY. The standing committees for the session were announced in each House yesterday, and will be found in our congressional columns.

Among other business in the House of Representatives, Mr. Wentworth, of Illinois, offered a resolution: "That Congress has the power to provide for the construction of a railroad over the Territories of the United States for the safer and more expeditious transportation of the public money, the mails, the troops, and the munitions of war, from the Atlantic to the cise that power." This was laid upon the table by a vote of-yeas 126, nays 72.

PURILIC PRINTER TO THE SENATE. The publisher of the Sentinel was elected

vesterday the Printer of the Senate of the United States by a vote which was very gratifying and complimentary. He hopes, by diligent attention to his duties to discharge them with fidelity to the public interest, and to the full and entire satisfaction of the Senate.

The course of the Sentinel will be directed as hitherto, with an eye single to the principles of the democratic faith, for which it has so warmly contended. In the performance of official duty the publisher of the Sentinel will know no party; but he will make it his earnest study to discharge promptly and faithfully the trust of the office to which he has been elected.

With no intention to be invidious, the publisher of the Sentinel expresses his warmest acknowledgements to those members of the Senate, by whose votes this distinguished mark

We commence this morning the publicatio of the report of the Hon. Jefferson Davis, Secretary of War. We regret that we cannot publish the whole of it in the same paper. The length, however, renders that impossible.

It is an able paper, and contains many valu able suggestions for reorganizing and improving the army. There are abuses in the army as well as in the navy. The Secretary recom mends an increase of the army. The author this number 8,378 are employed in the frontier mails reached this city yesterday morning. departments. The Secretary thinks that a force three times as large as our present army would be inadequate to guard the many points on our extended frontier, so as entirely to prevent all Indian depredations.

The same difficulty of getting men exists in the army as in the navy. This is attributable to two principal causes. 1st. The disparity between the pay of the

soldier and the value of labor in civil life.

2d. The fact that length of service carries with it no reward, either in increased pay, rank,

or privilege. To obviate these difficulties, the secretary proposes, and in our judgment, very properly proposes, an increase of the pay of soldiers. and an additional increase for each successive period of five years, so long as they shall remain in the army; and provision for the promotion to the lowest grade of commissioned officers, of such of the non-commissioned officers as may by character, conduct, and services, be qualified for, and entitled to such promotion. It is also proposed that authority be given to the President to confer the brevet of second lientenant, on such as by examination before an army board, may be found to be qualified for it, who shall be attached to the army as supernumeraries and be promoted as cadets under like circumstances are. He proposes that such meritorious non-commissioned officers as are

not fitted by education for such promotion, be

provided for by appointments as fort-keepers.

barrack masters, &c.

We presume that no one can find the slightest ground of complaint in respect to these recommendations. Indeed they seem to us to be of such singular merit, as to command the approbation of the whole country. There is as well sound policy as humanity in them. This is the kind of progress which we desire to see. This is the kind of progress which the democratic party mean to carry out. Such measures as are proposed by the Secretaries of War and Navy, are measures of marked and manifest utility and improvement. They look as well to the efficient organization of those two arms of the public service, as to a just and generous provision by the government for the men who fight its battles and constitute its defences. We have not the available space, nor indeed are we at this time prepared to follow the secretary in all his suggestions and recommendations-nor is it necessary to do so. This report is before the country, and all can read it for themselves. It affords us pleasure to commend it to the attention of our readers. It is able and interesting.

Gur venerable neighbor, the National Intelligencer, in its issue of yesterday, treats its readers to a long editorial article, embracing interesting remissiscences connected with the founding and growth of the city of Washington. It is written in that happy vein of honest simplicity and innocent mirth, so characteristic of that dignified journal. But for the pressure in our columns, we would transfer the article to our paper.

AMOS B. CORWINE, ESO.

A commendatory notice copied in the Na tional Intelligencer from the Panama Herald, has attracted our attention to the fact that the gentleman whose name heads this paragraph, deserves alike our attention. We can say, from the best authority, that Mr. Corwine, though the occupant of an office under the late administration, has retired from it with the high regard of every gentleman who may have had official intercourse with him. We are informed of the various sacrifices he has made in relieving the innumerable emigrants who have passed the isthmus on their way to that glorious western State, California. When they were naked, he clothed them; when they were thirsty, he gave them drink; when hungry, he fed them. Therefore we copy with great pleasure the subjoined notice, republished in the National Intelligencer from the Panama Herald:

We cannot permit the occasion of the retirement of Axos B. Corwixe, Esq., from the office of United States consul in this city to pass unnoticed and unremarked. During the time Mr. Corwing held the important and one-rous office entrusted to him by his government, he has faithfully, strictly, and courteously dis-charged its duties, and under the most trying circumstances and in positions of no ordinar difficulty he has invariably succeeded, not only in maintaining the honor of his country and the dignity of his office, but in gaining the respect and esteem of all parties with whom his fficial duties brought him in connexion. Very few persons, except those who have actually made upon the time and patience of the American consul during the continuance of the great Californian immigration in 1850 and 1851; the difficulties he was called upon to settle differences he was referred to to adjust, Pacific coast, and ought immediately to exer- and the important points of international and commercial law upon which he was called upon to give a decision. Fewer still can form any idea of the innumerable private demands made upon Mr. Corwine by his distressed countrymen, and the numbers whom he assisted in their distress. In private life his affability, courtesy, and hospitality are so well known that we need not expatiate upon them, the more so as we know that it would be displeasing to Mr. Corwine. We might say a great deal more than we have done, but we could not say less. It affords us sincere pleasure to pay this tribute to Mr. Conwine as the representative of a nation so nearly connected with our own; and we conclude by applying to him the words he so appropriately use the occasion of presenting the testimonial to Governor Roldan, "well done, thou good and faithful servant!"—Panama Herald.

Supreme Court of the United States. DECEMBER 12, 1853.

John S. Woodward and Charles Donohue, esq., of New York, Wm. Shephard Bryan, esq., of Maryland, Frederick K. Bartlett, esq., of Minnesota, Mariano D. Papy, esq., of Florida, Horace U. Soper, esq., of New York, and Samuel L. Hart, esq., of Ohio, were admitted attorneys, and convesslors

No. 6. The United States, appellants, vs. J. B. Senate, by whose votes this distinguished that of confidence has been conferred upon him by the highest legislative body in the country.

REPORT OF THE SECRETARY OF WAR.

No. 6. The United States, appellants, vs. J. B. Dauterive's heirs. The argument of this case was concluded by Mr. Attorney-General Cushing for appellants. The case being submitted on a printed argument by Messrs. Janin and Taylor in behalf of the appellants.

No. 12. The United States, appellants, vs. J. M. This cause was argued by Mr. Attorney-General Cushing for appellants.

No. 6. The United States, appellants, vs. J. B. Dauterive's heirs.

The case being submitted on a printed argument of this case was concluded by Mr. Attorney-General Cushing for appellants.

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No. 12. The United States, appellants, vs. J. M. Ducros et al. This cause was argued by Mr. Attorney-General Cushing for the appellants.

No. 13. E. Potter's ex'ors, appellants, vs. S. R. Potter et al. The argument in this cause was commenced by Mr. Badger for the appellants, and continued by Mr. Bryan for the appellees.

Adjourned until to-morrow, at 11 o'clock, A. M.

The Niagara at Boston.

Further from Europe-The Battle of Olienitze Eight Hundred Russians Slain, &c. The Niagara did not arrive at Boston until ate hour on Friday night. She did not arrive ized strength of the army is 13,821, officers and men; the actual strength is only 10,417. Of Wednesday night at ten; this was an error. Her The papers contain very little news

to that telegraphed from Halifax.

The London Morning Advertiser, of 26th, state that the British government had just received:

that the British government had Just received a telegraphic message announcing the entrance of the combined fleet into the Black sea. VIENNA, Thursday Evening.—The Russians at-tacked Fort St. Nicholas in Asia, by land and sea, but were repulsed five times. A Russian steamer, with 1,500 men on board, was stranded—twenty-five of the crew were saved by the Turks and rought to Constantinople as prisoners.

It is stated in another dispatch that the Turks have taken a Russian man-of-war in the Blac

nople, but no details are given.

CONSTANTINOPLE, November 10.—The Turkish capital is in a state of joyful excitement. A bulletin has been issued announcing that on the 4th instant Omer Pasha defeated the Russians at Oltenitza. On that day the Russian general led 30,000 men against the position which the Turks had taken upon the second and third, on the left Danube. The combat lasted six arge number of muskets and quantities of ammunition on the battle-field. Eight hundred Russians were killed, while the Turks had only thirteen

illed and seventy-two wounded. An Austrian report says the caar has replied in answer to an inquiry of Austria, that he will enter into negotiations if the Porte propose a project of peace.

ARRIVAL OF STEAMER ARCTIC. Two Days Later from Europe.

The War at the East-Contradictory Rumors-In tegrity of Turkey Guaranteed by France and England—Trouble between a Spanish Official and Young Soulc—Success of the Chinese Rebels. NEW YORK, Dec. 11.—The steamer Arctic has New York, Dec. 11.—The steamer Arctic has arrived, bringing nincty-three passengers, and Liverpool dates to November 30. Among her passengers is J. C. B. Davis, bearer of dispatches from London and Paris. The Africa arrived out

midnight on Sunday. Very little additional news of interest has ceived. Nothing had occurred along the Dan-e, and heavy storms of rain and snow had set in. There were rumors of an armistice, but these were doubtful. It was also reported that an engagement had occurred between the Turks and rvians, but it was not credited. The conduct of Omar Pacha had been sanction

ed by the government, and the Sultan had presented him with a horse. The allied fleets lie at Bey Cos. The Turkish fleets had gone into the Black sea to keep open the coast of Circassia. The Turks have five times repulsed the Russians from the fortress of San Nicholas. Two Russian ships ave been lost in the Black sea. Admiral Sir L. Lyon was on his

ommand of the British fleet. It is now reported that Dost Mahommed is hos-ic to Russia, as are all the Mahommedans of

India.
Some difficulties had occurred between Turkey nd Greece.
England. Parliament had been further pro-

spain.—At a ball given by the French ambassador at Madrid, the Duke of Alba, brother-in-day of the French empress, made a disparaging remark concerning the dreas of Mrs. Soule, wile of the American Minister, which being overheard by young Soule, he made a slight assault on the Duke. Mr. Soule, however, interfered and removed his son, but the affair created much excitement. Young Soule afterwards challenged the Duke, who refused acceptance.

fused acceptance.

Prussia.—The Prussian Chambers had been best pened. Prussia claims to act as may seem or her own interest in the eastern war. Germany.—Some troubles were reported in aden between the government and clergy. Large forces of artillery have been ordered into

-In China the rebels were everywhere

Mrs. Euzabeth Houghton has been sent t the lunatic asylum at Worcester, crazed by the spirit rapping humbug at Chicopee, Mass.

Aublic Document.

Report of the Secretary of War.

WAR DEPARTMENT, December Siz: I have the honor to submit the following report of the operations of this department during the past year. The authorized strength of the army (as now posted) is 13,521—officers and men; but it will be seen by the accompanying table, pre-pared in the Adjutant General's office, from the latest returns, that the actual strength is only 10,417. Of this number, 8,378 are employed in the frontier departments, or are now on the route tants of our frontiers have, under the direction of actively and constantly employed. Indian depre-dations have been comparatively unfrequent, and, except in California and Oregon, have not attained a more than local importance. In the Indian country, immediately west of the Mississippi, but two or three instances of collision have occured. Arrangements are now in progress, which, by the establishment of new posts in more favorable powith a number of the smaller and less important posts; to give increased security to the frontier, to employ a greater force for the protection of the emigration crossing the great plains of the west, and at the same time materially diminish the expenses of the military establishments in that part of the country. In Texas, Indian hostilities have diminished in frequency and importance, and in a majority of the cases that have been brought to majority of the cases that have been brought to the notice of the department, the depredations have been committed by Indians from Mexican territory. As the Rio Grande is the boundary be-tween this country and Mexico, and the positions to be occupied on it for the protection of that frontier, and the fulfilment of our treaty stipula-tions with the Republic of Mexico, will, in all probability, be permanent, the force on that river has been considerably increased, and arrangements are now being made under the direction of Major General Smith, aided by an experienced officer of engineers, to select the most suitable position for the attainment of these objects, and for the construction of the field works for their defence. As a part of this system, orders have been given for the establishment of a strong post on the Rio Grande, opposite the Mexican town El Paso, in the neighborhood of which Indian hostilities and collision between the frontier inhabitants of the two countries have occurred. It is also in contemplation to establish a large post at the point where the great trail of the Comanche Indians crosses the Rio Grande. Other dispositions for the control of the Indians on the northern frontier of Texas are also in progress, and when they are completed, the department hopes with confidence to give a very great security to both the Mexican and In-dian frontier of that State. New Mexico has been comparatively exempt from Indian disturbances during the past year. The few that have occured during the past year. The few that have occurred have generally been traced to marauders and out-

have generally been traced to marauders and out-laws for whose actions none of the tribes in that country can justly be held responsible.

Those to which they nominally belong have given assurances, which it is believed they are endeavoring in good faith to carry out, of their in-tention to apprehend and deliver up these ma-rauders, and restore the property plundered by them

hem. The Indians of California and Oregon are numerous and warlike, but as they are divided into small independent bands, having no general head, and were in agreat measure destitute of fire arms,

Now, however, that the rapidly extending thements of those countries are driving the In-dians from their accustomed haunts and crowding them into narrow limits, they are formed into com-binations both formidable and frequent. Within the past three years, their hostilities, the result, in many instances, of the intrusion and aggressions of the whites, have been almost uninterrupted, and it is officially known that in Northern California more than 100 whites and several hundred Indians have been sacrified in the collision

dred Indians have been sacrified in the collision between the two races.

The force in that country is not now, and never has been sufficient, and impressed with the idea of its entire inadequacy, the department sometime since ordered a regiment of artillery to the Pacific, and it was designed to send them an additional regiment of infantry, but it was found that the state of the service did not then, nor does yet,

nave been conducted with great energy ment, and in the final conflict General Captain Alden (the latter in command of the regu-ar troops) were both severely wounded while gallantly leading a charge against the Indians. here is, however, no assurance that peace car e maintained unless a force adequate to the conrol of the Indians is stationed in their midst. It s the intention of the department that this shall be done, and as soon as possible a considerable additional force will be sent to the Pacific, and me of the brigadier generals of the army ordered

The vast territories between the Rocky

ains and the Sierra Nevada are inhabited by nu-merous warlike bands of Indians. Hostilities are now existing between them and the inhabitants of Utah Territory, and they are constantly occurring on the emigration routes through the country, from the western States to our possessions on the Pa-cific. It is due to our citizens who are settled in, cific. It is due to our citizens who are settled in, or pass through these remote regions, that their lives and property should be protected, but the department is without the means of fulfilling their duty. The measures adopted by the Department of the Interior, under the last administration, for the removal of the few Seminoles remaining in Florida, having failed, it was considered advisable to transport the control of the Indians to the department, for the purpose of emigrating them to partment, for the purpose of emigrating them to the country west of the Arkansas. An experienced officer of the army, who is well acquainted with their character and possesses their confidence, has been entrusted with this duty; and with a view to strengthen his efforts, and at the same time be prepared to use coercive measures, if such should be necessary, a force, consisting of same time be prepared to use coercive measures, if such should be necessary, a force, consisting of nine companies of artillery, is posted in the peninsula of Florida. It is hoped that the measures thus taken will be attended with favorable results. The appropriation of March 3, 1853, for remounting the four additional light batteries authorized by the act of March 3, 1847, has been found insufficient to remount but there of them. ficient to remount but three of them. It is recom-mended that in the appropriation for the support of the army for the next fiscal year, provision be made for remounting and equipping the remaining company. For the details of the movements of troops during the past year, and their present dis-position, reference is respectfully made to the re-port of the commanding general, and the accom-panying tables, which are transmitted herewith. The disposition and employment of the army must depend upon the necessities of the service but if nothing unforeseen should occur, it is pro-posed to send two of the regiments of artillery to the Canada frontier and to the Atlantic and Gulf coats, the third to the Rio Grande boundary, and the fourth to the Pacific coast. The troops on the seaboard will be concentrated as much as possible, and at each of the posts occupied by them will be provided the means necessary for the instruction of officers and men in all the duties of their profession. The same course will be adopted, as far as practicable, at the points on the Mexican frontier and Pacific coasts, occupied by the artiflery, and generally whenever it can be done consistently generally whenever it can be done consistently with a proper degree of economy. Of the cavalry regiments, one will be required in Texas, one in New Mexico, and the remaining one for the western frontier, for service on the plains for the protection of singrants. A fourth is needed for the Pacific and the country between the Rocky Moun-

Pacific and the country between the Rocky Mountains and Sierra Nevada, and it is hoped that Coness will authorize its organization.

Three regiments of infantry are required Three regiments of infantry are required in Texas, two on the frontier west of the Mississippi, one in New Mexico, and the remaining one in the Indian country of the Pacific. In another part of this report, I shall invite your attention to the necessity of an increase of this force. The companies of several of the regiments, particularly the cavalry and artillery, are now greatly dispersed, serving in different departments, and under different commanders. Advantage will be taken of any movement of troops that may hereafter become necessary, and without incurring any great exnappessary, and without incurring any great ex-pense for that object alone, to concentrate the companies of the same regiments as much as pos-sible, so that they may be under a common commander, and subject, in some degree at least, to the control and supervision of their colonel or re-gimental commanders.

With an army three times as great as ours would be impracticable so to guard all points of our extended frontier, as entirely to prevent Indian depredations. It is therefore the intention of the department to put the troops in large bodies at commanding positions among the Indians, and to restrain aggressions by the exhibitions of a power

adequate to punish. They will not be likely to en- list, shall be entitled to two dollars per month in

adequate to punish. They will not be likely to engage in hostilities if their families are in the power of the troops during their absence.

The multiplication of small posts, however much it may appear to have been called for by the necessities of the service, is more than doubtful policy. The system is expensive far beyond any good results that are attained by it. It is injurious to the discipline, instruction, and efficiency of troops, and it is believed that it often invites aggression, by that exhibition of weakness which must inevitably attend the great dispersion of any force. The benefits of the proposed change will be an improvement in instruction and discipline, a greater degree of efficiency and usefulness, and a material diminution of expenses. The distribution of the material of war required for the defence of a country or the use of its army, is intimately connected with or the use of its army, is intimately connected with the movements and position of the personnel of that army. The facilities of communication between the depots where these supplies are stored, or can be obtained, and the points on our seaboard and northern and western frontiers, where they may be required, are so great, that so far as these are concerned no change in the present arrangement. be required, are so great, that so far as these are concerned no change in the present arrangement seems necessary. The communication with New Mexico, though tedious and expensive, is not liable to foreign interruption, and would not be changed to foreign interruption, and would not be changed by the occurrence of war. The case is somewhat different with regard to Texas, and essentially so with regard to the country bordering on the Paci-fic, which, from its wealth, is the most inviting, and from its remoteness, is, of all our posses-sions, the most exposed to the attack of a foreign enemy. In view of the ever possible contingen-cy of war, and the difficulty of providing for it after it has occurred, it becomes important to take enemy. In view of the ever possible contingency of war, and the difficulty of providing for it after it has occurred, it becomes important to take, at as early a period as possible, all necessary precautions for the security of our distant territory. As the appropriations for the "amount of fortifications" for the last three years have either been refused or greatly reduced, under the impression that it depended upon the prosecution of the "system of permanent fortification," it is proper to remark that this provision is not dependent upon the extent to which the system is carried, but it is indispensable to any system of coast defence that may be adopted. The construction of permanent fortifications, and the creation of arsenals and depots, is necessarily the work of time, but the armanent for the more important posts, both in Texas and on the Pacific coast, should at the earliest practicable period, be sent to them, and when in position, temporary works, sufficient for defence against any sudden attack by a naval force, could readily be thrown up by the labor of the troops. There should also be sent to the Pacific coast, and stored at suitable points, the ordnance and ordnance stores needed for its defence, and to the arsenals on the Columbia river and on the Bay of San Francisco, the machinery and other means needed for the construction, enjoy and to the arsenals on the Columbia river and on the Bay of San Francisco, the machinery and other means needed for the construction, equip-ment and repair of all the material of war. De-pots should also be formed of such other supplies as are not perishable in their character. With a water transportation of 16,000 miles, and land routes impracticable for the transportation of heavy sup-plies, it will be too late to adopt these measures when the communication by sea is liable to inter-runtion, and no prudent pation should true to ruption, and no prudent nation should trust is matters of such vital importance to the chances of a future that no human sagacity can foresee As many of the supplies proposed to be sent by Texas and to the Pacific, are now in depots in the Atlantic States, no great expense or loss would be sustained by their transfer, even if the necessity for their use should not occur for many years to come. As a measure of prudence and economy in the transportation of such as may be sent to the Pacific, it is suggested that whenever naval vessels are sent to that coast, there be sent with them such stores as they can conveniently contribute our contribute of the sent of the sent coast. them such stores as they can conveniently carry in addition to their own supplies. The state of the recruiting service is exhibited by the accom-panying report and tables prepared by the Ad-jutant General, who is charged with the details of that service.

The demand for labor has been so great through-

The demand for labor has been so great through-out all parts of the country during the past year that this service has not been so successful as in former years. In consequence of this, and the fact that a number of the companies heretofore serv-ing on the seaboard, "have been transferred to re-mote stations," where, under the authority vested in the President, by the act approved June 17, 1850, the maximum organization obtains, it is es-timated that 4,600 recruits will be required for the service of the ensuing year. To obtain these at the present rates of pay, and the present prosper-ous state of the country, can scarcely be expected, army. Since the termination of the war with Mexico, the excess of the legal over the actual strength has been 19 per cent.; the average loss by desertion 16 per cent.; by discharges for disaby desertion 16 per cent; by discharges for disa-bility and other causes, 8 per cent.; by death 4 per cent.; or a total loss independent of discharges by expiration of service, 28 per cent. A part of the per centage of desertions is due, however, to the excitement on account of the discovery of gold in California, the excess from that cause, in one year alone being 530 over the average of the three year alone being 530 over the average of the three succeding years. It was found by an analysis of the desertions, from 1826 to 1846, that if we exclude the excess due to local and temporary causes, in 1832 and 1846, there was, as the condition of the soldiers was ameliorated by increase of pay, &c., a gradual diminution in the proportion of desertions, and that when the difference between the pay of the soldiers and the value of the corresponding classes of labor in civil life was corresponding classes of labor in civil life wa slight, they were comparatively unfrequent—being at two different periods only 7½ and 4½ per cent. of

at two different periods only 74 and 44 per cent. of the actual strength of the army, and that they in creased in a direct ratio with the increasing prosperity of the country—reaching, when the disproportion was greatest, 21 per cent.

The same causes influenced, as was to be expected, the number of re-enlistments, the proportion in the last four years being only seventeen executive while in the three waves investigation. per cent., while in the three years immediately preceding the war with Mexico, it was twenty five per cent. of the number of discharges by expiration of service. These results may be traced to two principal causes. First, the disparity between the pay of the soldier and the value of labor in civil life. life. Second, the fact that length of service car-ries with it no increased pay, rank or privilege. Both these causes are the fruitful source of dissat-isfaction and desertion, and they prevent the re-enlistment of the most valuable men. There are

naterially affect the general results.

It may aid in the consideration of these result nd in the suggestion of remedial measures, t state some of them in another form.

Thus, in an army of 10,000 men, which is about the actual strength of our military establishmen as at present organized, there will be annual under existing circumstances of pay and servic 1,290 discharges by expiration of enlistment; 75 discharges for disability, &c.; 330 deaths, and 1,46 discharges for disability, &c.; 330 deaths, and 1,465 desertions, or 3.511 vacancies annually, of which only 219 are filled by re-enlistments. The actual annual loss to the army, to be supplied by the enlistment of new men, will therefore be 3,592. In other words, more than one-third of the army must every year be recruited and transferred from the depots to their regiments, abridging very mate rially the term of the soldier's efficient service. I is found that a majority of the desertions, and a very large proportion of the disabilities and deaths occur in the first year of the enlistment.

occur in the first year of the enlistment.

It will, therefore, be of paramount importance in devising any measures for keeping the ranks of the army full, to adopt such as will prevent as many desertions, and induce as many re-enlistments as possible. Every desertion that is prevented, and every re-enlistment that is induced, saves the expense of the enlistment and transfer of a recruit from the place of enlistment to his company; the time (often of the utmost importance) occupied in this transfer, and the danger of death and disability in becoming acclimated. The remedial measures that immediately suggest themselves, are; 1st. An increase of—per cent. of the present pay of the soldier. 2d. An additional increase for each successive period of five years, so long as he shall remain in the army. 3d. Provision for the promotion to the lowest grade of commissioned officers of such of the non-commissioned officers of the army as may be found qualified for, and by their conduct, character, and services entitled to, such advancement.

vancement. measured by the wages of labor and the cost of all the necessaries of life, has been so great that the necessity and propriety of the first of these measures must at once be apparent. The pay of the soldiers is relatively less now than it was prior to the increase granted by the law of July 7, 1838. The necessity and propriety of the second measure The necessity and propriety of the second measure proposed are believed to be equally great, but in order to elucidate it, it will be necessary to exhibit some of the data upon which this opinion is

urst period of five years after the exp first enlistment, and a further sum per month for each successive period of five years so long as he shall remain continuously in the

2. That soldiers now in the army, who have to the benefits of this provision according to the length of their continuous service, and that service during the war with Mexico, although of a ess period than five years, shall be counted as

five years service.

3. That soldiers who served in the war with Mexico, and received a certificate of merit for dis-tinguished services, as well those now in the army as those who may hereafter enlist, shall receive the \$2 per month, to which that certificate would have entitled them if they had remained continuously in the service. Skill and experience in all branches of business and departments of labor meet their appropriate reward, not only in civil life, but in all the departments of government, exlife, but in all the departments of government, ex-cept among the enlisted men of the army, where the recruit of yesterday, for services utterly dis-proportioned in value, receives the same compen-sation as the veteran of thirty years.

The absolute justice of increasing the soldier's pay according to the value of his services is appa-rent, and the economy of doing so is susceptible.

it is believed, of easy demonstration. With the extension of our territory, the cost of sending recruits to their regiments has enormously increased, and it is estimated that the expenses of the enlistment, the transportation and subsistence, the loss by desertion, and by the deaths and discharges for disability of unacclimated recruits, will average \$91 for each man enlisted under the present system. If to this be added the pay, clothing, medical attendance, &c., of the recruit, from his enlistment until he joins his company, the actual cost of each man, from his enlistment until the period when his actual service commences, will be \$121. If the suggestion above made for increasing the pay of the soldier, according to length of service, should be adopted, and should be as successful as anticipated, it is believed that it will, in the course of six years, in connection with the other ful as anticipated, it is believed that it will, in the course of six years, in connection with the other measures proposed, reduce the annual loss in the army from 35 to 10 or 11 per cent. The number of men now in the army, who would be entitled to the increased pay which this proposes, is less than 1,000, but the number would rapidly increase by re-enlistment, and the maximum number entitled to the increased pay would be obtained in six years.

years.

This number would be constant, or subject only of the men entitled to increased pay would then belong to the first and second classes, the expenditure on this account would increase gradually, as he men pass successively from the twenty-five years, the maximum expenditure on this account will be obtained. That limit will also men, to meet the annual loss (say 10½ per cent.) and the bounty for 1,060, the estimated number of re-enlistments under the proposed system will be \$119 per man against \$121 ander the present sys-tem. When the value of the services rendered. value of the services rendered tem. When the value of the services related the superior character of the men, and the expense quent diminution of offences and the exthey entail, are considered, the economy

upon known facts, and are conjectural only in that which relates to the working of the proposed sys-tem. It will increase the expenditures for the pay of the army only so far as it succeeds in restrain-ing desertions and inducing re-enlistments, and this increase in the pay will be more than corres-pondingly diminished in the expenditures of the other departments of the army. The proposition in relation to the extra pay of soldiers who have received certificates of merit, is an act of simple in relation to the extra pay of soldiers who have received certificates of merit, is an act of simple justice to men who, by construction of the law, were deprived of the benefit of the 17th section of the act of March 3, 1817. Under the operation of that construction which virtually reduced their pay, they refused to re-enlist, but it is believed that, to a considerable extent they would now enlist if the benefits of the law should be extended to

To carry into effect the third measure proposed, it is recommended that the President be authorized, under regulations to be established by law, the present rates of pay, and the present prosperons state of the country, can scarcely be expected,
and it was designed to send them an additional
regiment of infantry, but it was found that the
state of the service did not then, nor does yet,
admit of it.

The first mail from the Pacific, subsequent to
the issue of this order, brought intelligence of renewed hostilities, in which more than torty lives
were lost. By the activity and zeal of General
Lane, delegate from Oregon Territory, in command of a volunteer force, aided by the few regular troops that were in the neighborhood, hostilities were suppressed, and the Indians compelled
to sue for peace. These operations appear to
have been conducted with great energy and judghave ubordinate responsibility and trust. subordinate responsibility and trust. To provide for the advancement of this class, it is respectfully recommended that authority be granted to appoint a limited number of fort-keepers or barrack-masters, to be employed at such of our permanent fortifications as are not occupied by troops, and as substitutes for the civil agents employed by the quartermaster's and engineer's departments, receiving a compensation intermediate between ceiving a compensation intermediate between that of the highest grade of con-commissioned officers. These duties would be as efficiently performed, and at a diminished expense to the government. These suggestions, if carried out, will not be burdensome to the service by increasing the number of officers beyond its wants, nor expensive beyond

commensurate advantages.

It has been the policy of our government to maintain only a small army in peace, but it should also be our policy to be prepared for the events of war, by making that army as efficient as possible; efficient not merely in the operations required of it in the field of battle, but in all the various duties of a campaign, including economy of life and health, and in its capacity for disseminating in-

health, and in its capacity for disseminating instruction and discipline among those whom the exigencies of war call into the field unprepared to meet its hardships, and ignorant of the means of guarding against its vicissitudes.

In all the operations of war, efficiency and economy, if not synonymous, are at least correlative terms, and that army which is the most efficient will, at the same time, be the most economical. To attain this efficiency, it is essential that the personnel of an army should be intelligent and capable, but it is idle to hope that men of this character can be obtained unless their pay bears a fair proportion to that which they would receive in the corresponding employments of civil life. Patriotproportion to that which they would receive in the corresponding employments of civil life. Patriotism or a sense of duty will not, in time of peace, fill the ranks of an army, nor will pay alone be sufficient to develope all the elements of efficiency. The hope of advancement is the foundation of professional zeal and success, and this incentive should exist in the army as in civil life. Its honors and distinctions should be occarried. and distinctions should be open to all, that they may incite the ambition and stimulate the zeal of all. In making these suggestions, I have had principally in view the improvement of the army but it is my opinion, founded upon the opinion of our past history, that if adopted they would also produce economical results. As indicated in a previous part of this report, I respectfully invite ation of this subject to refer to the strength of our military establishment, as it has existed at different periods, and to the circumstances that controlled its organization. In 1808, the legal strength of the army was 9,991, which was increased in 1812, "for the defence of the Indian frontier," to

The war with England followed soon after thi increase, and, at its conclusion, the "peace estal lishment" was fixed at 12,383 officers and mer nd so continued until 1821, when it was reduce to 6,126. This organization was continued until 1832, when it was increased to 7,129. In 1836 it was increased to 7,958, and in 1836 to 12,137. These last additions were made during the exist-ence of Indian hostilities, (the Black Hawk and Florida wars,) and although previously recom-mended with the view of preventing them, were not authorized until their actual occurrence had demonstrated the wisdom of the recommendation in 1842, at the close of the Florida war, the arm was reduced to 8,613, which number, with sligh changes, was continued until the early part of 1846 the regiment of mounted riflemen was added for the protection of emigration on the Oregon route, making the aggregate of 9,418. At the close of the war with Mexico, its organization was fixed at 10,120. In 1850, it was increased by a sliding scale, which admitted a total strength, if all the scale, which admitted a total strength, it all the companies of the army were posted at "remote stations." of 14,731. As they are now posted, the authorized strength is 13,821; but, for reasons which have already been explained, the actual number is less by 3,376 men. It will be seen, by the above statements, that, in a period of forty-fivy years, the military peace establishment of the country has been augmented less than 4,000 men In the same period our country has increased in population more than 18,000,000, and in territory a million of square miles. In 1808, our Indian frontier requiring troops for its protection, was less than one thousand miles in extent, and there were no long lines of communication requiring defence Now that frontier has increased to more than

through the Indian country traversed annually by thousands of our citizens, and requiring constant protection to more than four thousand miles. Our seaboard and foreign frontier have been greatly increased, and of the latter, over two thousand five hundred miles are Mexican frontier, along which, besides the duty of guarding and protecting our own inhabitants, is the superadded obligation (by treaty) of protecting the inhabitants of Mexico from the Indians living within our limits. By the annexation of Texas and the acquisition Mexico from the Indians living within our limits. By the annexation of Texas and the acquisition of New Mexico and California, our Indian population has been increased from 240,000 to more than 400,000, a very large portion of whom, predatory and warlike in their labits, are for the time brought into contact with our people. The result of this is a state of continual disturbance. It has been the policy of our government, by grants of land and pre-emption rights to induce the rapid settlement of our western wilds. This policy involves the duty of protection. The intimate contact thus produced between the two races, the proneness of the Indian to maraud, and of the whites to intrude upon the Indian lands, causes constant collision. Aggressions on the part of either lead to retaliation, which unfortunately falls far more frequently upon the innocent and unofconstant comson. Aggressions on the part of either lead to retaliation, which unfortunately falls far more frequently upon the innocent and unoffending than upon the guilty, and retaliation leads to war. To repress these disturbances, troops must be collected from different points and transported over difficult and expensive routes to the scene of the troubles, or the militin of the country must be called out. In either case heavy expenditures, without considering the derangement of business and the loss of life and property are the consequence. In the meantime, other portions of the frontier are stripped of the troops required for their defence, and this weakness invites new aggressions, and renders new movements of troops and renewed expenditures necessary for their suppression. As the natural consequence of this, the expenditures of the army are very great in proportion to its strength. A reasonable increase of the army, if it did not entirely prevent these disturbances would at least diminish their frequency and produce an immense saving of money, property and life. The disneyties of the consequence of the entirely prevent these disturbances and the form of the consequence of the property and the form of the consequence of the consequence of the consequence of the army are very great in proportion to its strength. A reasonable increase of the army if it did not entirely prevent these disturbances and produce an immense saving of money, proportion to the consequence of the consequence. turbances would at least diminish their frequency and produce an immense saving of money, prop-erty and life. The disposition of the army and the assignment of troops to the frontier department has been stated in another part of this report. The force allotted to each is manifestly inadequate. It cannot be increased in any of them without withdrawing troops from the points where their presence is compilly necessary.

presence is equally necessary.

Your attention is respectfully invited to the recommendation of the commanding general in relation to this subject. In the views expressed by
him I fully concur, except that I am of opinion that a portion of the increase which he recommends should be attained by the addition of an mends should be attained by the addition of another regiment, rather than by the proposed increase of the company organization. After a full consideration of what is now and probably will hereafter be required of the army, I urgently recommend that the mininum organization of all companies be fixed, as in the mounted riflemen, at sixty-four privates, and that there be added to the present military establishment, one regiment of dragoons, and two regiments of riflemen.

This increase is materially less than that recommended by the commanding general, and is considered absolutely indispensable to the proper efficiency of the military service. It will give a minimum organization of 15,528 officers and men,

minimum organization of 15,528 officers and men, but may be expanded if the limit fixed by the law of June 7, 1850, be continued, to 17,414; and on a war establishment of 128 privates per company, to 27,818—giving for a state of war an effective increase of from 10,0000 to 12,000 men, without increase of from 10,0000 to 12,000 men, without the creation of new regiments, the experience of the last forty years has demonstrated the wisdom of maintaining in peace a military establishment that is capable of the greatest expansion in war. The increased efficiency and economy of companies thus expanded in war, from a nucleus of experienced and disciplined men, more than compensate for the additional expense of maintaining skeleton regiments in time of peace.

I also recommend that another company of sappers and miners be added to the engineer corps for the purpose for which the present company was organized. The usefulness and economy of this class of soldiers has been practically demonstrated, both in peace and war.

oth in peace and war.

The duties of hospital stewards are of a very

The duties of hospital stewards are of a very important character, requiring a considerable degree of intelligence and general knowledge. There is no provision for their enlistment, and it is sometimes difficult to find suitable persons among the enlisted men of the army. It is recommended that authority be given for the enlistment, under the direction of the surgeon general, of as many as may be necessary for the public service, to receive the same compensation as it is now an thorized by law.

I concur fully in the views expressed by the

commanding general in relation to the extension of the pension system to the widows and orphans of officers and soldiers of the regular army, and commend the subject to your favorable considerations.

The experience of every year gives increased force to the recommendations heretofore made for a retired list for disabled and superanuated officers. The casualities of the war with Mexico has greatthe casualities of the war with mexico has greatly increased the number who are incapable of the performance of any active duty. The plan recommended by my predecessors for several years past would retire them on a just compensation, promote efficient officers in their stead, and thus greatly contribute to the good of the service, without y contribute to the good of the service, without any new charge upon the treasury.

The pay of officers of the army was established

many years ago, when the value of money was much greater than at this time. What was then only a reasonable and just compensation is now entirely inadequate, and I accordingly recommend to your favorable consideration the propriety of its being increased in proportion to the increased cost of living. This is only a measure of justice to all, but is especially due to those whose duties required them to serve at stations where the comforts and often the necessaries of life command such exorbitant prices as to place them beyond the reach of those who have no other means than their

pay.
The 17th section of the act of March 3, 1847, authorized the President to attach non-commis-sioned officers who distinguished themselves in the war with Mexico, by brevet of the lowest grade of war with Mexico, by brevet of the lowest grade of rank to any company, and to bestow certificates of merit upon soldiers, who were, in like manner, distinguished. Many of the non-commissioned officers who were recommended for distinguished conduct, were not attached, in consequence of a want of qualification, but would have received a certificate of merit if the terms of the law had not precluded it. It is respectfully recommended that the cluded it. It is respectfully recommended that the President be now authorized to grant certificates of merit to non-commissioned officers who were not considered eligible for the position of commis-

not considered eligible for the position of commissioned officers.

I recommend to favorable consideration the suggestion of the quartermaster general in his report submitted herewith, for the increase of the comfort of troops in barracks, the augmentation of the allowance to soldiers when unavoidably employed as mechanics, teamsters and laborers, and also the proposed changes in relation to store keepers and barrack-masters, and the settlement of the accounts of disbursing officers.

The act of 1808, for "arming and equipping the

The act of 1808, for "arming and equipping the whole body of the militia of the United States," whole body of the minuta of the United States, makes an appropriation for supplying the several States and Territories annually with such arms and equipments as are used by the United States troops—the quota due to each being determined troops—the quota due to each being determined by apportioning the whole amount according to the return of the militia made to the adjutant general of the army. These returns are furnished irregularly by some of the States, and by others not at all, and it results from this inequality the actual supplies of arms and equipments not at all, and it results from this inequality that the actual supplies of arms and equipments furnished to the States and Torritories under the law of 1808, are not distributed as prescribed by that law, "in proportion to the number of effective militia in each," nor is it probable that the regularity and uniformity in these returns, requisite to apportion these supplies as the law requires can apport to the supplies as the law requires can apport to the supplies as the law requires can apport to the supplies as the law requires can apport to the supplies as the law requires can apport to the supplies as the law requires can apport to the supplies as the law requires the supplies as the supp larity and uniformity in these returns, requisite to apportion these supplies as the law requires can be attained. The only remedy for this seems to be, to adopt the mode of apportioning the arms and equipments to the several States and Territories, authorised in the case of the State of Iowa, by the act of March 3, 1853, which was according

o representation in Congress.
In connection with this subject, I respectfull In connection with this subject, I respectfully invite your attention to the importance of providing the militia of the country with the proper books for tactical instructions. They are furnished with arms at the expense of the United States, and although they are required, by existing laws, to observe the system of instruction adopted for the regular army, no provision has yet been made for supplying them with the necessary books for that purpose. According to the estimate of the general-in-chief, an annual appropriation of \$20,000 for a few years, would be sufficient for this object.

For the condition of the military academy, I refer to the report of the chief engineer, and the accompanying highly commendatory report of the last board of visitors, in which you will find further confirmation of the estimate piaced on the value and efficiency of that institution. The recommendation of the board to increase the academic term to five years is one which has been frequent. mendation of the board to increase the academic term to five years is one which has been frequently presented by preceding boards of visitars, and which is believed to be systained by important considerations. The low standard of acquirement now fixed to entitle a cadet to admission must often lead to the introduction of those whose previous education has been very defective, and the study of the scientific and military branches included in the course leave little time for the second cluded in the course leave little time for the ac-quisition of that knowledge of international law.

of language, and of literature, demanded by the interests of the service. The officer of the arms may often be required promptly to decide upon questions of national law, where errors would be a service. questions of national law, where errors would be seriously injurious to his country, and his reports and memoirs are the channels through which deeds most illustrating his country's history are transmitted to other people and to other times. To raise the standard of acquirement te be possessed previous to admission to the academy, would, in some degree, deprive the institution of its present popular character, by excluding those who, from the want of early advantages, could not then pass the preliminary examination. The grade of cadet being the lowest in commission known in our army, should be, as it now is, within the reach of youths in every condition of life; and this, together with the fact that, by the mode of appointment, all sections and all parties are fairly represented, gives to the institution that character which should belong to it as a part of the military establishment of the United States. If, then, a more finished education than that which is obtained by the course now prescribed be desirable for the officers of the army, the recommendation of the board for an increase of the academic terms are through the course and the commendation of the board for an increase of the academic terms are continued. army, the recommendation of the board for an in-erease of the academic term presents, it is believed, the least objectionable mode of effecting that ob-ject. The estimates submitted for the current year are recommended to favorable consideration. The appropriations made at the last session of

ject, The estimates submitted for the current year are recommended to favorable consideration. The appropriations made at the last session of Congress, are all in the course of application to the several works for which they were respectively granted. These works were designed to protect interests of great value; but there are other points of seacoast and interior frontier which equally require protection, and the estimates submitted for these, also, are recommended to favorable consideration, under the belief that, when completed, these fortifications will be the most reliable, and by far the most economical mode of defence the government could provide. An opinion has, to some extent, prevailed, that the growth of our country, the increased facilities of transportation, the application of steam to the propulsion of war, have lessened, if they have not removed, the necessity for fortifications upon our frontier. This is an opinion which is apt to fesult from a long continued state of peace, and which history teaches has been usually abandoned when nations have been submitted to the test of defensive war. President Monroe, than whom few will be considered higher authority on this subject, in a special message to Congress, March 26, 1822, urged the completion of the system of defences, which was adopted immediately after, and in view of the effects of the war of 1812, and urged his recommendation by the enormous expense, the waste of life and property, and the general distress of the country, which had resulted from the want of such preparations before the commencement of that war; and he further gives this impressive admonition: Should another war occur before it is completed, the experience of the past marks in characters too strong to be mistaken, its inevitable consequences; and should such war occur, and find us unprepared for it, what will be our justification to the enlightened body whom we represent, for not having completed these defences? The increase of our population, attended by extraordinary progres tablishment, or to wage aggressive war. If then, in the future, as in the past, the policy of our government is to be that of peace, and the citizens of the country are to be relied on for its defence whenever war shall occur, it is not perceived how the past or prospective growth of our country can remove the necessity or propriety of the proposed defences. The Pair has a growth of our country can be proposed defences. ever war shall occur, it is not perceived how the past or prospective growth of our country can remove the necessity or propriety of the proposed defences. The Paixhan gun, and other improvements in the art of war, and the application of steam to the propulsion of vessels of war, seem to me rather to have increased than diminished the value of fortifications. The rapid progress of a steam fleet, by diminishing the opportunity for preparation, after the point of attack is determined, increases the necessity of fortifying the main avenues of approach. The Paixhan gun adds to the efficiency, and consequently to the value of fortifications; for the fire of large shells is more formidable to the timbers and rigging of a ship, than to the masonry of a fort; and a steam vessel must expose a larger surface subject to injury, than a sail vessel of the same class.

The report of the Secretary of War, in answer to the resolution of the House of Representatives, of the 3d of March, 1851, containing the views of the chief engineer of the army, and other officers of that corps and of the navy, presents the whole subject under consideration so fully that it is not deemed necessary to add more on this occasion.

The action of Congress, at its last session, is considered an indication of the intention to continue this system of defence, and gives reason to hope that the appropriations asked for at this session for the further prosecution of these works will not be withheld.

The exposed and defenceless condition of the Pacific coast, claimed and received the sealer of the se

The exposed and defenceless condition of the

Pacific coast, claimed and received the early at-tention of the department, and prompt measures were taken for the application of the appropriation made at the last session of Congress for the de-fence of the harbor of San Francisco. But the minute examinations requisite before the com-mencement of the works, and the inquiries to be made as to the places of supply, and the means of procuring materials, have limited operations to the preliminary preparations for construction, such as erecting the requisite accommodations for each erecting the requisite accommodations for work-men, leveling sites and making the detailed sur-veys for the fortifications.

To be continued.

Wreck and Loss of the Revenue Cutter Hamilton and Loss of all on Board Except One.—We are indebted to the Charleston Southern

CHARLESTON, Dec. 10, P. M.—We have informa-tion here announcing the total wreck, on Thurs-day evening last. off the southern coast, of the revenue cutter Hamilton. The most melancholy and painful part of this intelligence is, that her Commander, Captain Randolph, First Lieutenant Sanders, Third Lieutenant Hines, the crew, and all hands aboard, except one, were drowned.

The Railroad Troubles at Erie.

ERIE, Saturday, Dec. 10, 1553.—The railroad company last night completed laying the track, and repairing the bridges up to the city limits, and the train was run over from the State line to to within a mile of the depot. In the night, the rioters at Harbor creek, again tore up the track, destroyed the culvert bridge, and ploughed up part of the grade of the road. Many of the citizens here are indignant at the action of the mob, and here are indignant at the action of the mob, and desire the railroad to be left unmolested. Many of the rioters are paid for their work by interested parties. The company will lay the track through the city to-day. The postmasters here and west, the city to-day. The postmasters here and west, have sent reports to the postmaster general, stating the cause of the delay in the mails.

Later from Havana-The Crescent City De-New Orleans, Dec. 9.—The steamship Crescent City has arrived here, with Havana dates to the 5th instant.

5th instant.

The new captain-general of Cuba arrived out on the 2d, and was immediately installed.

The passengers by the Crescent City are indignant because the steamer, after receiving permission to leave on the evening of the 4th, and going out of the harbor, was recalled and obliged to wait till the next day.

The ship Trainer, from New York, was lost near Turk's Island, and was a total wreck, Captain and crew saved.

Bosros, Dec. 11.—Halifax papers of the 5th state that Rear Admiral Fanshawe has been a pointed naval commander at the North American and West India stations.

The Humboldt's loss was caused by an ignorant

fisherman who boarded her, pretending to pilot, but said he had left his papers at home

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WM. W. DAVIS, Dec 10-16

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